

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

NA

MFO

1. ~~Page~~
2. ~~Mahoney~~
3. ~~Austin~~

Reply to: 3460

August 20, 1986

Subject: 1986 Gypsy Moth Monitoring Results - Monongahela NF

To: Forest Supervisor, Monongahela NF

During 1986, the Forest Pest Management (FPM) Staff, Morgantown, conducted a gypsy moth survey on the Monongahela National Forest using pheromone traps for male moths. This memo provides you with the results of our survey on National Forest lands. However, our findings present only a partial picture of the current gypsy moth status and trend on the Monongahela National Forest and in the immediate vicinity. The Division of Plant Industry, West Virginia Department of Agriculture, and Virginia Department of Agriculture, also conducted a gypsy moth survey in the counties covered by your Forest and adjoining it to the east. We will share their findings with you when these become available to us later this season.

The general design of our survey was presented in our Work Plan entitled "Gypsy Moth Management on the Monongahela National Forest, West Virginia-General Planning Direction and Establishment of Gypsy Moth Monitoring During 1986 on the Cheat, Potomac and Greenbrier Ranger Districts." This work plan was sent to you April 2, 1986. In summary, 1986 activities involved having FPM directly place male moth traps in accessible portions of high risk compartments of the Cheat, Greenbrier and Potomac Ranger Districts (essentially north of US 250) where their Timber Staff Personnel had indicated oak tree species predominated. The number of traps placed on each of these three RD's is shown in Table 1. Additional traps were placed by District personnel south of US 250 on the Greenbrier RD, and on the Gauley, Marlinton and White Sulphur RD's. Forest Pest Management also placed burlap bands on three preferred host trees at each of 25 trap sites on the northern portions of the Cheat and Potomac RD's to sample larvae and pupae.

The sites at which male moth traps were placed in 1986 have been identified by a number within each Ranger District. These are presented on Maps 1-6 - accompanying this memo. The maps also have the sites highlighted in different colors to show the four classes of male moth captures to give you a general idea of the abundance and distribution of the gypsy moths within each Ranger District. Table 1 summarizes the frequency (numbers and percentages) of male moths captured by RD. A summary of the male moth captures during 1986 also has been presented in Table 2 to show the counties in which males were found. When combined with the survey results from WV-Agriculture and VA-Agriculture, this data will help to visualize the complete picture of gypsy moth presence on your Forest. However, from the data we have at present, it is possible to draw some very valid conclusions.

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MONONGAHELA NAT'L FOREST

As expected, gypsy moth males are most abundant in the northern RD's of the Monongahela NF where greatest population pressure exists from the gypsy moth outbreak in surrounding areas of Maryland and West Virginia, within 25-30 miles to the immediate north and east. In contrast, the gypsy moth was virtually nonexistent in the southern RD's. The Potomac RD appears to have the greatest population pressure placed on it from the gypsy moth, but the Cheat RD is not far behind.

The most important finding from this year's survey involved the detection of gypsy moth life stages other than the adult male moth. One mature larva was found under burlap at Site 1, Potomac RD. This site and another on the Potomac RD, as well as one on the Cheat RD, produced pupae. This indicates that the gypsy moth has now reached the Monongahela National Forest as a feeding population. Most likely, the gypsy moth is also now on the Monongahela NF as a breeding population, but confirmation of this requires the discovery of gypsy moth egg masses indicating successful breeding has occurred. This fall we intend to scout for egg masses in the areas where other life stages have been found.

Later this year, when all the information has been compiled about the gypsy moth situation on your Forest in 1986, Bob Acciavatti of my staff intends to brief you about what the future holds for the Cheat and Potomac RD's. This will involve: 1) the gypsy moth population status expected in 1987; 2) where the timber, recreation and wildlife habitat values would be at greatest risk during an outbreak; and, 3) what gypsy moth population management strategies/tactics we might consider for possible intervention and suppression.

Robert E. Acciavatti

for ALLAN T. BULLARD
Field Representative
Forest Pest Management

Enclosures

cc: AO

R-8, FPM, Attn: H. Toko

R-9, TM, Attn: R. Van Aken

WV-Agriculture, Attn: C. Coffman

Marlinton RD, Attn: District Ranger

Potomac RD, Attn: District Ranger

Gauley RD, Attn: District Ranger

White Sulphur RD, Attn: District Ranger

Cheat RD, Attn: District Ranger

Greenbrier RD, Attn: District Ranger

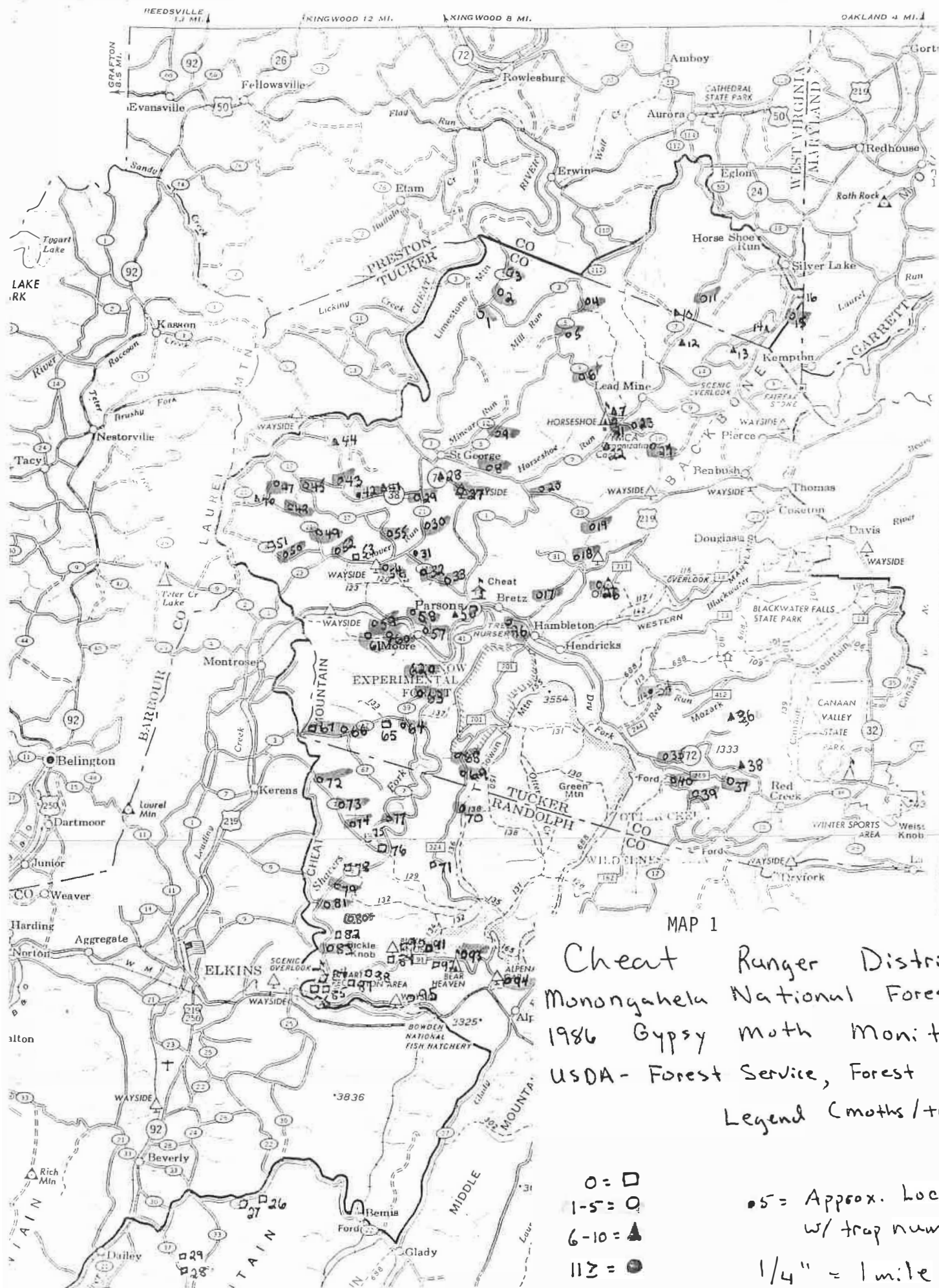
REA/gjc

TABLE 1
 Gypsy Moth Monitoring 1986
 Summary of Number of Male Moths Captured
 Monongahela National Forest
 USDA Forest Service - Forest Pest Management

Ranger District	Total Traps	Number of Traps (%)			
		0 Moths	1-5 Moths	6-10 Moths	11+ Moths
Cheat	95	17 (18%)	61 (64%)	14 (15%)	3 (3%)
Gauley	25	24 (96%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Greenbrier	80	66 (83%)	14 (17%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Marlinton	23	22 (96%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Potomac	80	5 (6%)	32 (40%)	33 (41%)	10 (13%)
White Sulphur	22	21 (95%)	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
National Forest Total	325	155 (48%)	110 (34%)	47 (14%)	13 (4%)

TABLE 2
 Gypsy Moth Monitoring 1986
 Summary of Moth Catches/Counties Sampled
 Monongahela National Forest
 USDA Forest Service - Forest Pest Management

Counties	Number of Traps	Male Moths Caught	Ranger Districts
Grant	25	211	Potomac
Greenbrier	24	1	Gauley and White Sulphur
Nicholas	6	1	Gauley
Pendleton	53	256	Potomac
Pocahontas	80	16	Greenbrier, Gauley and Marlinton
Preston	2	10	Cheat
Tucker	69	289	Potomac and Cheat
Webster	10	0	Gauley
Randolph	56	21	Cheat and Greenbrier
National Forest Total	325	805	



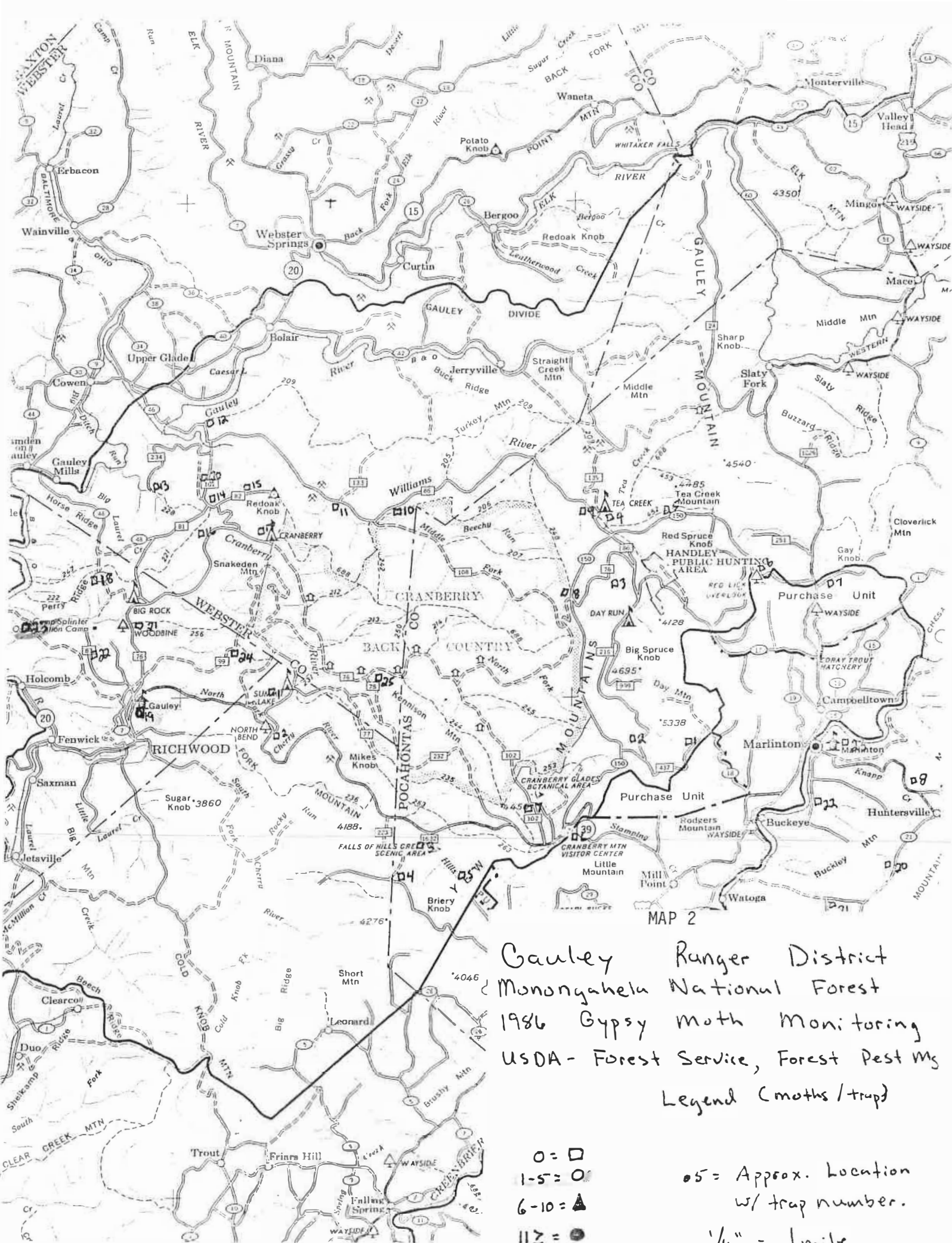
MAP 1

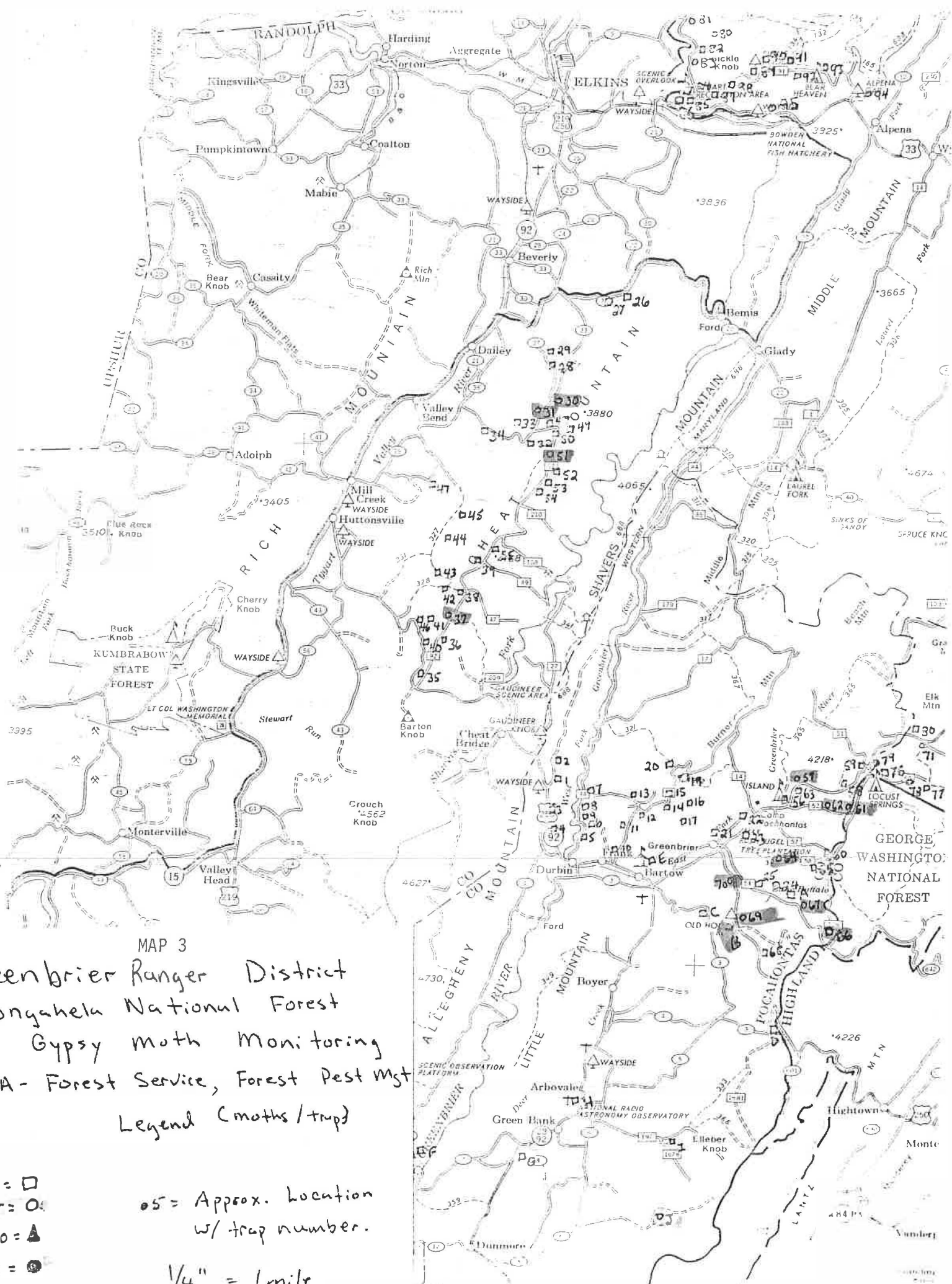
Cheat River District
 Monongahela National Forest
 1986 Gypsy Moth Monitoring
 USDA - Forest Service, Forest Pest Mgmt
 Legend (moths / trap)

0 = □
 1-5 = ○
 6-10 = ▲
 11+ = ●

○5 = Approx. Location
 w/ trap number.

1/4" = 1 mile





MAP 3

Greenbrier Ranger District
 Monongahela National Forest
 1986 Gypsy moth Monitoring
 USDA - Forest Service, Forest Pest Mgt

Legend (moths / trap)

- 0 = □
- 1-5 = ○
- 6-10 = ▲
- 11-20 = ●
- 05 = Approx. Location w/ trap number.
- 1/4" = 1 mile

